

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-3,5,7-10,22 and 24 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please substitute the following amended claims for those currently pending:

1-3 (cancelled)

4. (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 3,~~

A method of assembling a muntin bar lattice for use in an insulating glass unit,

comprising the steps of:

providing a muntin bar segment having a wall;

wherein the step of providing a keeper comprises the step of providing a keeper including
a lock;

the keeper being dimensioned for piercing the wall of the muntin bar segment;

piercing the wall of the muntin bar with the keeper;

positioning the keeper in a desired position in which a first portion of the keeper extends
beyond a first side of the muntin bar segment and a second portion of the keeper extends beyond
a second side of the muntin bar segment; and

locking the keeper in the desired position.

5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 2, further including the step of~~

A method of assembling a muntin bar lattice for use in an insulating glass unit,

comprising the steps of:

providing a muntin bar segment having a wall;

providing a keeper dimensioned for piercing the wall of the muntin bar segment;

piercing the wall of the muntin bar with the keeper;

positioning the keeper in a desired position in which a first portion of the keeper extends beyond a first side of the muntin bar segment and a second portion of the keeper extends beyond a second side of the muntin bar segment;

inserting the second portion of the keeper into a cavity of a second muntin bar segment;

and

inserting the first portion of the keeper into a cavity of a third muntin bar segment.

7-10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended): ~~The keeper of claim 10,~~

A keeper for joining a first muntin bar segment to a second muntin bar segment,

comprising:

an elongate body having a proximal end and a distal end;

the body having a tip portion disposed at the proximal end thereof;

the tip portion being dimensioned for piercing a wall of the first muntin bar segment to create an opening therein; and

the tip portion of the body comprising a first cutting edge having wherein the first cutting edge has a length that is substantially equal to a thickness of the body.

12. (currently amended): The keeper of claim 7 11, wherein the tip portion of the body includes a second cutting edge disposed at a first angle relative to a longitudinal axis of the body.

13. (original): The keeper of claim 12, wherein the tip portion of the body includes a third cutting edge disposed at a second angle relative to the longitudinal axis of the body.

14. (original): The keeper of claim 13, wherein the second angle is substantially equal to the first angle.

15. (currently amended): The keeper of claim 7 11, wherein the body is substantially symmetrical about a longitudinal axis thereof.

16. (currently amended): The keeper of claim 7 11, wherein the body is substantially symmetrical about a lateral axis thereof.

17. (currently amended): ~~The keeper of claim 7,~~
A keeper for joining a first muntin bar segment to a second muntin bar segment,
comprising:

an elongate body having a proximal end and a distal end;

the body having a tip portion disposed at the proximal end thereof;

the tip portion being dimensioned for piercing a wall of the first muntin bar segment to create an opening therein; and

wherein the body has an overall width dimensioned to be received in a cavity of the second muntin bar segment.

18. (currently amended): ~~The keeper of claim 7,~~

A keeper for joining a first muntin bar segment to a second muntin bar segment,
comprising:

an elongate body having a proximal end and a distal end;

the body having a tip portion disposed at the proximal end thereof;

the tip portion being dimensioned for piercing a wall of the first muntin bar segment to create an opening therein; and

wherein the first muntin bar segment comprises a material having a first modulus of elasticity and the keeper comprises a material having a second modulus of elasticity greater than the first modulus of elasticity.

19. (currently amended): ~~The keeper of claim 7,~~

A keeper for joining a first muntin bar segment to a second muntin bar segment,
comprising:

an elongate body having a proximal end and a distal end;

the body having a tip portion disposed at the proximal end thereof;

the tip portion being dimensioned for piercing a wall of the first muntin bar segment to create an opening therein; and

wherein the first muntin bar segment comprises a material having a first yield strength and the keeper comprises a material having a second yield strength greater than the first yield strength.

20. (currently amended): ~~The keeper of claim 7,~~

A keeper for joining a first muntin bar segment to a second muntin bar segment,
comprising:

an elongate body having a proximal end and a distal end;

the body having a tip portion disposed at the proximal end thereof;

the tip portion being dimensioned for piercing a wall of the first muntin bar segment to create an opening therein; and

wherein the first muntin bar segment comprises a material having a first hardness and the keeper comprises a material having a second hardness greater than the first hardness.

21. (currently amended): ~~The keeper of claim 7,~~

A keeper for joining a first muntin bar segment to a second muntin bar segment,
comprising:

an elongate body having a proximal end and a distal end;

the body having a tip portion disposed at the proximal end thereof;

the tip portion being dimensioned for piercing a wall of the first muntin bar segment to create an opening therein; and

wherein the first muntin bar segment comprises aluminum and the keeper comprises stainless steel.

22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended): ~~The keeper of claim 22,~~

A keeper for joining a first muntin bar segment to a second muntin bar segment, comprising:

an elongate body having a proximal end and a distal end;

the body having a tip portion disposed at the proximal end thereof;

the tip portion being dimensioned for piercing a wall of the first muntin bar segment to create an opening therein; and

the keeper further including a lock for holding the keeper in a desired position relative to the first muntin bar segment, wherein the lock includes a ramping surface that is dimension to elastically deform the wall of the first muntin bar segment.

24. (cancelled)

25. (original): A spacer for the separation of panes in an insulating glass unit, comprising:

a tubular member comprising a wall defining a lumen;

a mounting flange comprising a first portion of the wall that is doubled back upon itself;

and

a plurality of mounting holes defined by the mounting flange.

26. (original): The spacer of claim 25, further including a second mounting flange comprising a second portion of the wall that is doubled back upon itself.

27. (original): The spacer of claim 25, further including a seam formed between a first leg of the mounting flange and a second leg of the mounting flange.

28. (original): The spacer of claim 25, wherein the mounting holes are dimensioned to receive a plurality of prongs of a clip.

29. (original): The spacer of claim 25, further including a plurality of granules disposed within the lumen.

30. (original): The spacer of claim 29, wherein the granules comprise a desiccant.

31. (original): The spacer of claim 29, wherein the granules comprise clay.

32. (original): A spacer for the separation of panes in an insulating glass unit, comprising:

- a tubular member defining a first lumen and a second lumen;
- a seal interposed between the first lumen and the second lumen; and
- a plurality of mounting holes communicating with the second lumen and separated from the first lumen by the seal.

33. (original): The spacer of claim 32, wherein the mounting holes are dimensioned to receive a plurality of prongs of a clip.

34. (original): The spacer of claim 32, further including a plurality of granules disposed within the first lumen.

35. (original): The spacer of claim 34, wherein the granules comprise a desiccant.

36. (original): The spacer of claim 34, wherein the granules comprise clay.